

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please add the following new claims 44-46.

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44. A brazed ceramic ring sandwich for a lithium ion battery comprising a first ring of ceramic material; a second ring of titanium; a third ring of a titanium alloy of aluminum and vanadium, Ti-6Al-4V; a gold alloy braze with a gold content by weight of more than 50%; wherein said gold alloy braze attaches said second ring of titanium to said first ceramic material; wherein said gold alloy attaches said third ring of titanium alloy to the other edge of the ceramic ring.

45. The brazed ceramic ring sandwich of claim 44 wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide and zirconium oxide with 3% yttrium.

5 46. The brazed ceramic ring sandwich of claim 44 wherein said gold alloy braze comprises 96.4% gold, 3.0% nickel and 0.6% titanium.

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